



HOME ON THE RANGE AT JSC



The Texas Independence Trail Ride arrived at JSC just in time for Rodeo Houston! Astronauts joined the trail riders as they rode through the Center. Children from the JSC Child Care Center participated in the festivities by greeting the trail riders and learning about various livestock. NASA shared its Vision for Space Exploration this year at Rodeo Houston with an interactive exhibit and autograph opportunities from several astronauts.

Clockwise from top left: Astronaut Ron Garan accompanies the trail riders.

The trail riders make their way past Rocket Park.

Riley Martin holds a baby chick at the JSC Childcare Center.

Space Center Roundup

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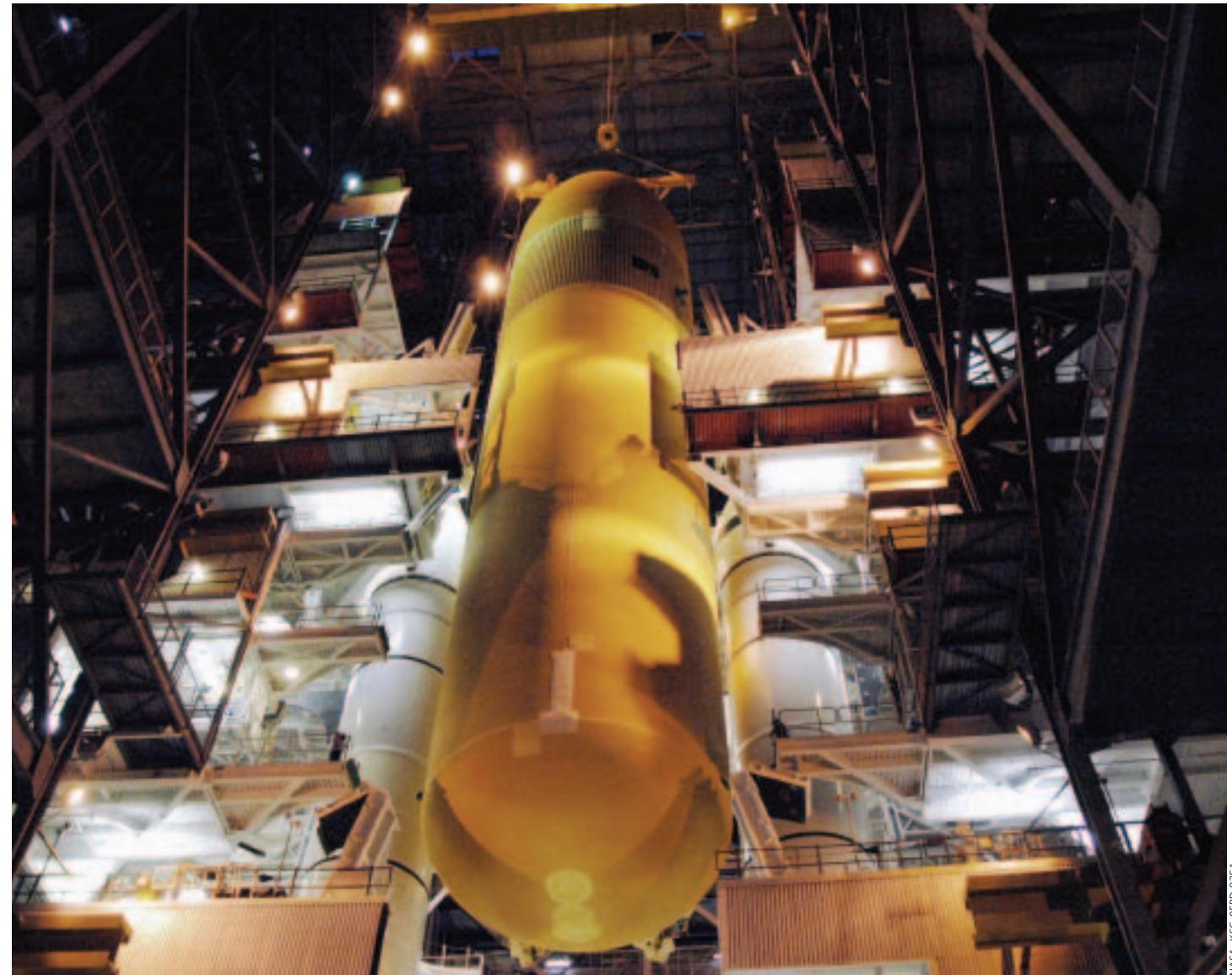
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Explore. Discover. Understand.



Getting ready to rumble

The immense size of the External Tank (ET) is captured here as a crane lowers it between the Solid Rocket Boosters (SRBs) on the Mobile Launcher Platform. The ET, designated for the Return to Flight mission STS-114, will be mated to the SRBs for launch. The 154-foot long ET was recently redesigned to meet recommendations of the *Columbia* Accident Investigation Board before returning to flight. Among dozens of changes is a redesigned forward bipod fitting to reduce the risk to the Space Shuttle from falling debris during ascent. Considered a test flight, STS-114 will carry supplies and equipment to the International Space Station.

April
2005
Houston, Texas

Beak sends...

A MESSAGE FROM CENTER DIRECTOR LT. GEN. JEFFERSON D. HOWELL JR.



April thoughts

A time of renewal. New beginnings. New life. Hot sun. Warm weather. Old muscles feeling better. The birds and the bees, etc.

Spring rain. Green fields. Clear blue skies. Mocking Bird serenades early in the morning. Wild flowers. Millions of Blue Bonnets between Columbus and Bastrop.

Baseball. A new season. Go Astros!

A new Administrator named. Impressive resume. Sound views. New energy. Solid leadership.

Exploration. Much excitement. Much uncertainty. Assurance that we will be in the middle of it.

ISS crew change. Well done to Expedition 10! All the best to Expedition 11. Back to Moscow and Kazakhstan. Outstanding US team in Russia. Our partners come through again.

The final push for Return to Flight. Stress. Continual boards and meetings. Added Stress. Stacks of paper to close. More stress. Important issues yet to resolve. Even more stress. Determination to get it done. Excitement mixed with concern. We’re going to fly!

Profound thanks for being a part of this elite team!

IT’S GREAT TO BE ALIVE AND IN HOUSTON!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jefferson D. Howell Jr."



“Victory belongs to the most persevering.”

Napoleon Bonaparte

Courtesy of the Joint Leadership Team



The orbiter Discovery slowly rolls out of the Orbiter Processing Facility bay 3 to begin its transfer to the Vehicle Assembly Building (VAB). Inside the VAB, Discovery will be mated to the External Tank/Solid Rocket Booster assembly for Return to Flight mission STS-114. See the complete story on pages 4 and 5.